

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, July 9, 1883, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. July 9th, (1883?)
8:30 P.M. My dear Alec:

Considering you only left me last night and in about the stupidest place in existence you can hardly expect much of a letter tonight. You seem to have carried all the hot weather with you, for although the sun has struggled gallantly with heavy clouds we have been shivering all day. Since however, our husbands are away it is of the less consequence as we can wear our plainest, but warmest clothes. Berta especially doesn't think anybody but her husband and husband's brother worth looking pretty for. No wonder you thought her radiant while you were here, she had been keeping her charms bottled up.

My children are very well, they went to walk with me this morning, and Daisy only tumbled down once and lost her rubber off once and Elsie didn't insist on stopping to ask about the man in the moon in the middle of the street more than half a dozen times, so I thought the adventure a success. We brought home besides my shopping some very common field flowers that took Day's fancy, and a perfect devil of a caterpillar that neither children could leave behind. It's the most repulsive thing of the kind I ever saw and "Oh isn't it lovely" say you young naturalists. It is black with hideous black specks all over its back and reddish creepers. We put it in a box with oak leaves but of course we have no idea what it ought to have as Elsie saw it hanging on the bridge. It seems half alive as it has scarcely moved of its own accord. The children 2 were delighted with your moth which laid several eggs in the night, wanted to know if you had seen it and were very unwilling to let their treasure go. Elsie wanted to keep it until Papa's moths came out, but finally consented to let it go. I fear however, it was tardy mercy the poor thing could not fly only hop about. What shall I do with the eggs. I do not know whether it was the result of your exhortation yesterday or

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not but Maurice has not been as well as usual today! and consequently has felt less like doing a thing. I do hope you have been able to work today, I do approve of men working hard, what I don't like is their working so irregularly and improperly that the mental muscles instead of being strengthened by use are injured by improper management. Work as hard as you can, but regularly and in moderation. And my darling, pray don't rush from one extreme to the other and starve yourself after overeating, you will not be able to do your work if you do. And above all take care of the sun. Forgive this homily, but I love my husband and want to keep him always strong and well.

Your loving Wife,